BING CROSBY

(1901 - 1977)

"I can't think of a better way for a golfer who sings for a living to finish the round." Kathryn Crosby.

(The bulk of the following newsletter was typed and duplicated before the tragic news that reached us all this weekend. It was felt desirable to send it as written because although Bing is gone, through his records and films, he will forever be alive. B. M.)

THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
CASSETTE BORROWING PROCEEDURE

All applications will be dealt with strictly in order of receipt. No phone bookings will be accepted. The tapes listed below may be borrowed from the Society for a maximum of 10 days at any one time. Two (2) cassettes may be borrowed at a time. The charge to the borrower is $1.00 per two cassettes, this money being used to purchase new cassettes and new material for the library. Tapes may be collected personally from 10 Devon St Caulfield 3161 or they can be mailed out by certified mail with the receiver paying postage costs. Similarly, the tapes may be returned personally to the above address or posted back by certified mail to: The Victorian Bing Crosby Society, PO Box 422 , South Melbourne 3205.

If any tape is damaged or jams DO NOT attempt to repair it. Please RETURN it with a note explaining what is wrong.

All cassettes in the BING RECORDS series have been recorded wherever possible, from original 78's, the sound being superior to any LP reissues. Where good quality 78's were not available, LP re-issues were used. On some tracks, this means that some artifically-created echo is present which is regretted. Hopefully, as good quality 78's become available, the offending tracks will be replaced. In some cases, surface noise is unavoidable. New cassettes are continually being added to this series. Please ask for details.

All the cassettes in the BING FILMS series are taken from the soundtracks of Bing's movies and feature most of the songs + edited dialogue. Sound quality varies due to the varying quality of the sources but it is fair to say that actual sound quality is the maximum that can be obtained.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE

BING RECORDS 1 - I've got the girl (18.10.26) - to From Monday On (12.1.28)
" " 2 - Mississippi Mud (20.1.28) to Wa Da Da (19.6.28)
" " 3 - That's Grandma (19.6.28) to Your Mother and Mine (16.5.29)
" " 4 - S'posin (16.5.29) to One More Time (2.3.31)
" " 5 - Wrap your troubles in dreams (2.3.31) to I Found You (21.12.31)
" " 6 - Snuggled on your shoulder (21.1.32) to Brother can you spare a dime (25.10.32)
" " 7 - Sweet Sue (25.10.32) to I guess it had to be that way (26.8.33)
" " 8 - Thanks (27.8.33) to The very thought of you (5.10. 34)
" " 9 - 2 Cigarettes in the dark (5.10.34) to Twilight on the trail (24.3.36)
" " 10 - Touch of your lips (24.3.36) to A fine romance (19.8.36)
" " 11 - Me and the moon (19.8.36) to When the organ played "O Primise Me" (12.11.37)
" " 12 - Let's waltz for old time sake (15.11.37) to Old Folks (14.10. 38)

(Eventally, we will issue comprehensive listings of the contents of each cassette. In the meantime, may I reassure you that there is not a bad record in the lot!!!)

BING'S FILMS

The following cassette contain the actual sound tracks from virtually all of Bing's films from 1929 to 1956. Soundtracks from the handful of films made by Bing from 1956 to 1966 are not yet available. However, until they are, we have substituted the commercially issued songs from these films to complete the series. These comprise the bulk of Side 2 of Cassette No 8.

BING FILMS 1 - Two Plus Fours (1929) to We're Not Dressing (Pt 1) (1934)
" " 2 - We're Not Dressing (Concl) to Double or Nothing (1937) Pt 1
" " 3 - Double or Nothing (Concl) to Rhythm on the River (1940) Pt 1
" " 4 - Rhythm on the River (Concl) to Going My Way (1944) Pt 1
" " 5 - Going My Way (Concl) to Welcome Stranger (1947)
" " 6 - Variety Girl (1947) to Mr Music (1950) Pt 1
" " 7 - Mr Music (Concl) to White Christmas (1954) Pt 1
" " 8 - White Christmas (Concl) to Robin and the 7 Hoods (1964)

N.B. BE SURE TO KEEP THIS LIST. IT IS YOUR CATALGOUE FOR FUTURE ORDERS.

THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Vol 1, No 1. 22/8/77

Dear Andrew

Thank you for attending our first meeting on Sunday August 7th. This, the first of what I hope will be a regular series of newsletters, is coming out a little earlier than I had intended. The reason for this is a decision made at a meeting between myself and the people who volunteered to help form a committee to run the society. At the recommendation of Mr Bill Weeden, President of the Frank Sinatra Society of Australia, we have decided that the society should be structured along more formal lines than first intended. This will enable us, amongst other things, to qualify for a shortly-to-be-introduced concessional rate on postage which will halve our stamp cost. As you will appreciate, these days, that alone is reason enough to 'legalize' our society.

In simple terms, this means that we will be required to have a stated set of objectives, a constitution and a formally-elected committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and four others.

Obviously, it is in our best interests to see that this is done as soon as possible, hence the reason for this early newsletter. Our First Annual General Meeting will therefore be held at 7.45 p.m. Monday Sept. 5th, at Meeting Room No. 2, Moorabbin Town Hall, 977 Nepean Highway. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. To soften the blow, I will be playing some rare and unusual Crosby records after the official business is taken care of. If you know of any discs you would like to hear, please ring me before Sept. 2nd. My new home number is 523 9263 and my office number is 62 6931.

At the meeting on Sept. 5th, you will be asked to: i) Elect the office-bearers listed above, and ii) formally approve the following:

a) That Bing be made an honorary life member of the Society
b) That the objectives of the society be:
   i) To increase public awareness and understanding of the contribution of Bing Crosby to popular music.
   ii) To provide the opportunity for collectors and admirers of Bing Crosby to meet at regular intervals for the purpose of discussion and mutual enjoyment of the works of the artist.

(N.B. If you have any suggestion for amendment of the above wording, you are invited to suggest it at the meeting.)

c) That the constitution of the society be as follows:

i) A society is hereby constituted and shall be known as the VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY.

ii) Offi ce-bearers shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary Treasurer and four (4) others. ALL to be duly elected into office at the Annual General Meeting.

iii) The Society shall be under the management and control of the Committee.

iv) Duties of the Committee shall be: (a) To organise and publicise meetings. (b) To meet on a regular basis to discuss matters concerning the society. (c) To deal with any other matters members deem fit.

v) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of September each year, when a report and balance sheet showing receipts and Expenditure shall be presented to members, and the election of Office-Bearers for the ensuing 12 months take place. Notice of intentions to proposed changed in the Constitution must be in the hands of the Secretary at least (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

vi) The Financial Year shall be from the period 1st of August to 31st July. Annual subscription shall be deemed by the Annual Meeting. The rates in force at the time of joining/renewal shall entitle a subscriber to 12 months membership in the Society.

Your attendance at this meeting is earnestly requested. It is essential that we get our society off to a good start. If you cannot attend, could you please ring and let me know.

TAPE LIBRARY

One of the first services we will be offering to members of the Society will be access to a cassette tape library. Initially, you will be able to borrow cassettes of the sound-track music from Bing's films. These will be taped in chronologial order beginning with Bing's first short film in 1929. Shortly, you will also be able to borrow cassettes covering Bing's entire recorded output - from "I've got the girl" to his latest recording of the day. These will also be presented in chronological order. A small charge will be made (probably $1 for two C90 cassettes for two weeks + any postage costs incurred). The charge will be to cover replacement of any tapes damaged during loan and also to permit us to purchase rare material from overseas. If you have any other suggestions for material you would like on tape (e. g. Bing's Philco Radio Shows), please let us know.

RECORD COVERS

Shortly, I will be placing an order for a quantity of 10" 78rpm record covers. These will be made from high quality cardboard (colour still to be determined), similiar in thickness to those sold by Batmans in the city. The main difference is that our covers will be available to members for around 11 - 14c each (final price will depend on quantity ordered). If you would like to order some for your records, and any quantity is acceptable, please let me know either before or at our meeting on the 5th. N.B. Payment is requested in advance. When all the orders are received, I will work out the cost per head and contact you.

FEES

Although the figure of $5.00 a single membership, $7 a double were arrived at rather hurriedly during our last meeting, we will try to stick with these figures for the first year. Quite honestly, at this stage, we do not know exactly what our operating fees will be. Obviously, the more members we have, the more chance of keeping our fees at their current level. In our initial meeting last week, we also discussed setting a special membership fee for people living on a pension. Our recommendation is that this be set at $2 per annum.

FINALLY...

I hope that you all enjoyed the two early Crosby movies we showed at our first meeting. The good news is that more of these appear to be available than was first thought so we should have material for our next few meetings. If you know of anyone with copies of Bing's movies (particularly early ones), please let your committee know. I'm sorry that I didn't get more of a chance to get around and talk to everyone personally at the meeting, especially those who I've had the pleasure of meeting in my own home. Hopefully, I'll be able to rectify this at our AGM.

Remember, the more members we have, the better our society will be. So if you have any friends you think might be interested in joining, please bring them along on the 5th.

See you then,

Bob